



PATENT
Docket No.: 55197USA4A.002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Douglas Quong.

Serial No.: 09/425,636

Filed: October 22, 1999

Group Art Unit: 1617

Examiner: Webman, E.

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For: **ACTIVE MATERIAL WITHIN HYDROGEL MICROBEADS**

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on February 14, 2001.

Signed: 
Dale A. Bjorkman (Reg. No. 33,084)

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed January 11, 2001.
Applicant respectfully submits the following remarks.

REMARKS

The Office Action requires a Restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between the following groups:

Group I -- claims 1-18, drawn to a method of using,

Group II -- claims 19-32, drawn to a composition.

Applicant hereby affirms election of Group I, claims 1-18 with traverse. The claims as originally presented focus on a specific area of technology that is closely related with respect to the different categories of invention presented therein. It is respectfully submitted that the inventions as embodied in the different groups identified by the Examiner are so closely related that the search for one category would necessarily result in the consideration of art that would be of interest in the examination of other categories.

The Office Action also states that claims 8 and 9 (in this election with traverse) are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising matrices. Applicant hereby elects the species of alginates in claim 8 with traverse. Applicant further asserts that the members of the Markush group listed herein are sufficiently few in number and so closely related that a search of the entire claim can be made without serious burden.

Applicant also elects the species of polyvinyl alcohol in claim 9 with traverse. Applicant further asserts that the members of the Markush group listed herein are sufficiently few in number and so closely related that a search of the entire claim can be made without serious burden.

The Office Action also states that claim 10 (in Group I election with traverse) is generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising activities. Applicant hereby elects the species of pheromone with traverse. Applicant also asserts that the members of the Markush group listed herein are sufficiently few in number and so closely related that a search of the entire claim can be made without serious burden.

For purposes of efficiency both for the U.S. PTO, Applicants and the general public, it is respectfully requested that all inventions as defined by the Examiner be examined in a single application.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Early favorable notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

February 14, 2001

By: 

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